



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

## Salmonella

# Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections Linked to Cantaloupe

Posted August 30, 2012 4:30 PM ET

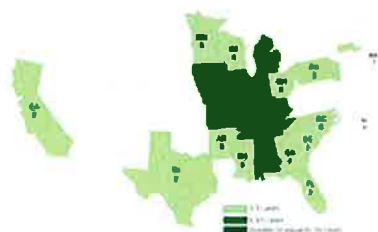
### At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 204** (</salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html>)
- **States: 22** (</salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/map.html>)
- **Deaths: 2**
- **Hospitalizations: 78**
- **Recall: Yes** (</salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/advice-consumers.html>)

### More Information:

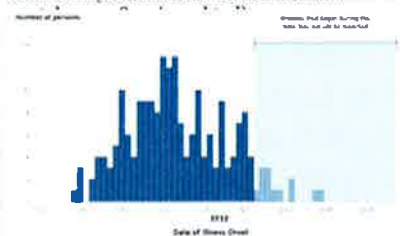
- [Recall & Advice to Consumers \(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/advice-consumers.html\)](/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/advice-consumers.html)
- [Signs & Symptoms \(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/signs-symptoms.html\)](/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/signs-symptoms.html)
- [Key Resources \(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/key-resources.html\)](/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/key-resources.html)

### Latest Case Count Map



[\(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/map.html\)](/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/map.html)

[Click map to view updated & previous case count maps. \(/salmonella/typhimurium-](#)



[\(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html\)](/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html)

[Click graph to view updated & previous epi curve graphs. \(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html\)](#)

## Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers » (</salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/advice-consumers.html>)**
- A total of 204 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 22 states.
  - The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alabama (13), Arkansas (5), California (2), Florida (1), Georgia (4), Illinois (24), Indiana (22), Iowa (8), Kentucky (63), Massachusetts (2), Michigan (6), Minnesota (5), Mississippi (5), Missouri (13), New Jersey (2), North Carolina (5), Ohio (5), Pennsylvania (2), South Carolina (3), Tennessee (8), Texas (2), and Wisconsin (4).
  - 78 ill persons have been hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported in Kentucky.
- Collaborative investigation efforts of state, local, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate that cantaloupe originating from Chamberlain Farms Produce, Inc. of Owensville, Indiana is a source of this outbreak.
  - On August 22, 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a recall of cantaloupes (<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm316665.htm>) [↗](#) (<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) originating from Chamberlain Farms Produce, Inc.
  - Records available currently indicate that this product was initially shipped to Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin, although further shipment was likely.
- Consumers who recently purchased Chamberlain Farms cantaloupes are advised not to eat them and discard any remaining cantaloupe.
  - Based on the available information, consumers can continue to purchase and eat cantaloupes that do not originate from Chamberlain Farms Produce, Inc.
  - Many cantaloupes have the growing area identified with a sticker on the fruit. If no sticker is present, consumers should inquire about the source. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Retailers and food service operators should not sell or serve Chamberlain Farms cantaloupes.
- FDA is continuing to work closely with CDC and state partners during this ongoing investigation. CDC will update the public on the progress of this investigation as information becomes available.

August 30, 2012

## Case Count Update

A total of 204 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 22 states. The 26 new cases are from 12 states: Arkansas (2), Florida (1), Georgia (1), Illinois (3), Indiana (4), Iowa (1), Kentucky (7), Minnesota (1), Missouri (1), North Carolina (2), Ohio (1), and Tennessee (2).

Among 149 persons for whom information is available, illness onset dates range from July 7, 2012 to August 18, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 100 years, with a median age of 50 years. Fifty-nine percent of ill persons are female. Among 149 persons with available information, 78 (52%) reported being hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported in Kentucky.

Illnesses that occurred after August 7, 2012 might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

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August 28, 2012

## Environmental Sampling Update

From August 14 to 16, FDA investigators collected samples from surface areas at the farm as well as samples of cantaloupe at Chamberlain Farms. Samples of cantaloupe collected at Chamberlain Farms show the presence of *Salmonella* Typhimurium bacteria with a DNA fingerprint that matches the outbreak strain.

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August 23, 2012

## Case Count Update

A total of 178 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 21 states. The 37 new cases are from 13 states: Alabama (6), Georgia (2), Illinois (4), Indiana (5), Kentucky (6), Massachusetts (2), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (3), Missouri (3), New Jersey (1), Ohio (1), Texas (1), and Wisconsin (2). Since the last update cases have been reported from one additional state, Massachusetts.

Among 121 persons for whom information is available, illness onset dates range from July 7, 2012 to August 9, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 100 years, with a median age of 48 years. Fifty-nine percent of ill persons are female. Among 121 persons with available information, 62 (51%) reported being hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported in Kentucky.

Illnesses that occurred after July 31, 2012 might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

## Recall

On August 22, 2012, Chamberlain Farms Produce, Inc. of Owensville, Indiana voluntarily recalled cantaloupe

(<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm316665.htm>)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) grown on its farm, because it may be one source contributing to the multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections.

Records available currently indicate that this product was initially shipped to Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin, although further shipment was likely.

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## Initial Announcement

August 17, 2012

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections. Joint investigation efforts indicate that cantaloupe grown in southwestern Indiana is a likely source of this outbreak. As a result of the initial investigations by the state health departments in Indiana and Kentucky, a farm in southwestern Indiana has contacted its distributors, which reach outside Indiana into other states, and is withdrawing its cantaloupe from the market place. The farm has agreed to cease distributing cantaloupes for the rest of the growing season.

Public health investigators are using DNA “fingerprints” of *Salmonella* bacteria obtained through diagnostic testing with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, or PFGE, to identify cases of

illness that may be part of this outbreak. They are using data from [PulseNet \(/pulsenet/\)](http://pulsenet/), the national subtyping network made up of state and local public health laboratories and federal food regulatory laboratories that performs molecular surveillance of foodborne infections.

A total of 141 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella Typhimurium* have been reported from 20 states. The number of ill people identified in each state is as follows:

Alabama (7), Arkansas (3), California (2), Georgia (1), Illinois (17), Indiana (13), Iowa (7), Kentucky (50), Michigan (6), Minnesota (3), Missouri (9), Mississippi (2), New Jersey (1), North Carolina (3), Ohio (3), Pennsylvania (2), South Carolina (3), Tennessee (6), Texas (1), and Wisconsin (2).

Among persons for whom information is available, illness onset dates range from July 7, 2012 to August 4, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 to 92 years, with a median age of 49 years old. Fifty-five percent of ill persons are female. Among 64 persons with available information, 31 (48%) patients reported being hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported in Kentucky.

The outbreak can be visually described with a chart showing the number of persons who became ill each day. This chart is called an [epidemic curve or epi curve \(/salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html\)](http://salmonella/typhimurium-cantaloupe-08-12/epi.html). This pattern has been seen before in PulseNet, and in the past typically caused 10-15 cases per month. Illnesses that occurred after July 26, 2012, might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

## Investigation of the Outbreak

Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback investigations conducted by officials in local, state, and federal public health, agriculture, and regulatory agencies indicate that cantaloupes grown in southwestern Indiana are a likely source of this outbreak of *Salmonella Typhimurium* infections. Investigations are ongoing to identify the source of contaminated cantaloupes. In interviews, ill persons answered questions about foods consumed and other exposures during the week before becoming ill. Eighteen (75%) of 24 ill persons interviewed reported consuming cantaloupe in the week before their illness began. The Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services has isolated the outbreak strain of *Salmonella Typhimurium* from two cantaloupes collected from a retail location in Kentucky.

Preliminary results of antibiotic susceptibility testing indicate that this strain of *Salmonella* is susceptible to commonly prescribed antibiotics. There is no connection between this *Salmonella* outbreak and the [2011 multistate outbreak of listeriosis linked to whole cantaloupes from Jensen Farms, Colorado \(/listeria/outbreaks/cantaloupes-jensen-farms/120811/index.html\)](http://listeria/outbreaks/cantaloupes-jensen-farms/120811/index.html).

CDC and state and local public health partners are continuing laboratory surveillance through PulseNet to identify additional ill persons and to interview ill persons about foods eaten before becoming ill. Investigations are ongoing to determine if other types of melons may be linked to illness. FDA is continuing to work closely with CDC and state partners during this investigation. CDC will update the public on the progress of this investigation as information becomes available. ([« show less](#)) (#)

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Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\) Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases \(DFWED\)](#)

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